

# Jewish American Heritage Month Booklist May 2014



Since 2004, Jewish American Heritage Month is recognized each May to celebrate over 350 years of contributions by Jewish American citizens to the culture and history of our country. Thanks to the efforts of Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida and Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, President George W. Bush made the official proclamation for this commemoration in 2006. Its celebration is led by the Jewish American Heritage Month Coalition.

Holocaust Remembrance Day marks the anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising. The internationally recognized date comes from the Hebrew calendar and corresponds to the 27th day of Nisan on that calendar. It is in April or May each year. In Hebrew, Holocaust Remembrance Day is called *Yom Hashoah*. In 2014 *Yom Hashoah* begins at sundown on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Below is a list of recently published books, videos, and websites to provide important insight to the history of Jewish heritage and culture in America and the world. All books and media are available at the Norfolk Public Library, and the websites may be viewed online from home or the public computer stations located in any branch library. With respect to the custom of many Jews, the sacred name of the Supreme Being is written in this document as “G-d” so that if printed it is not defaced inadvertently. When searching the online catalog, use an “o” in place of the dash.

## Adult Fiction

The following selected fiction includes titles by award winning authors, recent best sellers, novels that are acclaimed, or titles that provide important insight to the history of Jewish heritage and culture.

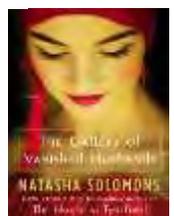
### [Margot](#)

*(Jillian Cantor)* Margie Franklin is working in Philadelphia as a secretary at a Jewish law firm. On the surface she lives a quiet life, but Margie has a secret: a life she once lived, a past and a religion she has denied, and a family and a country she left behind. Margie is really Margot Frank, older sister of Anne, who did not die in Bergen-Belsen as reported, but who instead escaped the Nazis for America. But now, as her sister becomes a global icon, Margie’s carefully constructed American life begins to fall apart



### [The Gallery of Vanished Husbands](#)

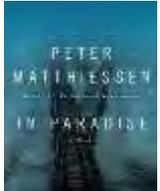
*(Natasha Solomons)* A stunning new novel from the New York Times bestselling author of *The House at Tyneford* London, 1958. It’s the eve of the sexual revolution, but in Juliet Montague’s conservative Jewish community where only men can divorce women, she finds



herself a living widow, invisible. Ever since her husband disappeared seven years ago, Juliet has been a hardworking single mother of two and unnaturally practical. But on her thirtieth birthday, that's all about to change. A wealthy young artist asks to paint her portrait, and Juliet, moved by the powerful desire to be seen, enters into the burgeoning art world of 1960s London, which will bring her fame, fortune, and a life-long love affair.

### [In Paradise: A Novel](#)

*(Matthiessen, Peter)* From the two-time National Book Award winning author of *The Snow Leopard* and *Shadow Country*, a short, powerful novel about an American professor of Holocaust Studies who, over the course of a weeklong spiritual retreat at Auschwitz, is forced to grapple with his own past and a family secret: the Jewish mother abandoned to her doom by his Gentile father.



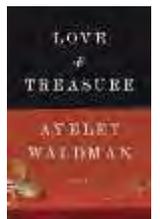
### [Jacob's Oath](#)

*(Martin Fletcher)* As World War II winds to a close, Europe's roads are clogged with twenty million exhausted refugees walking home. Among them are Jacob and Sarah, lonely Holocaust survivors who meet in Heidelberg. But Jacob is consumed with hatred and cannot rest until he has killed his brother's murderer; a concentration camp guard nicknamed "The Rat." Now he must choose between revenge and love, between avenging the past and building a future. Martin Fletcher, who won the National Jewish Book Award for *Walking Israel*, proved his chops as a novelist with *The List*, which was selected as the One Book, One Jewish Community title for the city of Philadelphia. Now, Fletcher brings us another touching novel of love, loyalty, and loss, set in the aftermath of the Holocaust.



### [Love and Treasure](#)

*(Ayelet Waldman)* In 1945 on the outskirts of Salzburg, victorious American soldiers capture a train filled with unspeakable riches: piles of fine gold watches; mountains of fur coats; crates filled with wedding rings, silver picture frames, family heirlooms, and Shabbat candlesticks passed down through generations. Jack Wiseman, a tough, smart New York Jew, is the lieutenant charged with guarding this treasure--a responsibility that grows more complicated when he meets Ilona, a fierce, beautiful Hungarian who has lost everything in the ravages of the Holocaust.



## **Adult Nonfiction**

The following list is selected nonfiction by award winning authors, recent best sellers, and books that provide important insight to the history of Jewish heritage and culture.

### [American Jews & America's Game: Voices of a Growing Legacy in Baseball](#)

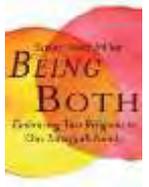
*(Larry Ruttman)* Most fans don't know how far the Jewish presence in baseball extends beyond a few famous players such as Greenberg, Rosen, Koufax, Holtzman, Green, Ausmus, Youkilis, Braun, and Kinsler. The life stories of these and many others, on and off the field, have been compiled from nearly fifty in-depth interviews and arranged by decade in this edifying and entertaining work of oral and cultural history. In *American Jews and America's*



Game each person talks about growing up Jewish and dealing with Jewish identity, assimilation, intermarriage, future viability, religious observance, anti-Semitism, and Israel.

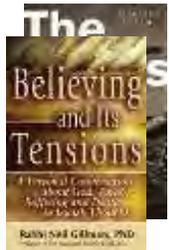
### [Being Both: Embracing Two Religions in One Interfaith Family](#)

*(Susan Katz Miller)* Susan Katz Miller grew up with a Jewish father and Christian mother, and was raised Jewish. Now in an interfaith marriage herself, she is one of the growing numbers of Americans who are boldly electing to raise children with both faiths, rather than in one religion or the other (or without religion). In *Being Both*, Miller draws on original surveys and interviews with parents, students, teachers, and clergy, as well as on her own journey, to chronicle this controversial grassroots movement.



### [Believing and its Tensions: A Personal Conversation about G-d, Torah, Suffering and Death in Jewish Thought](#)

*(Neil Gillman)* An intimate and candid examination of the changing nature of belief and where it can lead us—from the life experience of one of Judaism’s leading thinkers. For over five decades, Rabbi Neil Gillman has helped people think through the most challenging questions at the heart of being a believing religious person. In this intimate rethinking of his own theological journey he explores the changing nature of belief and the complexities of reconciling the intellectual, emotional and moral questions of his own searching mind and soul.



### [Black Jews in Africa and the Americas](#)

*(Tudor Parfitt)* *Black Jews in Africa and the Americas* tells the fascinating story of how the Ashanti, Tutsi, Igbo, Zulu, Beta Israel, Maasai, and many other African peoples came to think of themselves as descendants of the ancient tribes of Israel. Pursuing medieval and modern European race narratives over a millennium in which not only were Jews cast as black but black Africans were cast as Jews, Tudor Parfitt reveals a complex history of the interaction between religious and racial labels and their political uses.



### [The Compass](#) (eBook)

*(Deborah Radwan)* Thirteen-year-old Rudy and his friends routinely ride their bikes through their rundown neighborhood, shouting insults at their neighbor, Jacob, an elderly Jewish man out tending his garden. Then Rudy discovers that his mother has arranged for him to help Jacob tear down his fence that summer. As they work alongside each other, Jacob and Rudy do more than tear down a fence in this story of healing and hope that changes Rudy’s life in ways he never imagined.



### [Encyclopedia of Jewish American Popular Culture](#)

*(Jack Fischel)* This unique encyclopedia chronicles American Jewish popular culture, past and present in music, art, food, religion, literature, and more. Over 150 entries, written by scholars in the field, highlight topics ranging from animation and comics to Hollywood and pop psychology.



### **Forbidden Music: The Jewish Composers Banned By the Nazis**

*(Michael Haas)* With National Socialism's arrival in Germany in 1933, Jews dominated music more than virtually any other sector, making it the most important cultural front in the Nazi fight for German identity. This groundbreaking book looks at the Jewish composers and musicians banned by the Third Reich and the consequences for music throughout the rest of the twentieth century. Because Jewish musicians and composers were, by 1933, the principal conveyors of Germany's historic traditions and the ideals of German culture, the isolation, exile and persecution of Jewish musicians by the Nazis became an act of musical self-mutilation.



### **The Hands of War: A Tale of Endurance and Hope, From a Survivor of the Holocaust**

*(Marione Ingram)* During World War II, Marione and her family miraculously escape the firestorms of Hamburg and seek shelter with a contact in the countryside who grudgingly agrees to house them in a shed for more than a year. [\(Also available as an electronic resource\)](#)

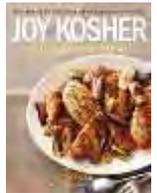
### **Hanukkah in America: A History**

*(Dianne Ashton)* Hanukkah has been a dynamic force for both stability and change in American Jewish life. The holiday distinctive transformation from a minor festival to a major occasion that looms large in the American Jewish psyche is a marker of American Jewish life. Drawing on a varied archive of songs, plays, liturgy, sermons, and a range of illustrative material, as well as developing portraits of various communities, congregations, and rabbis, Hanukkah in America reveals how an almost forgotten festival became the most visible of American Jewish holidays.



### **Joy of Kosher: Fast, Fresh Family Recipes: Dress Them Up for Entertaining, Dress Them Down for Everyday**

*(Jamie Geller)* The Rachael Ray of Kosher and founder of Joy of Kosher magazine shares over 200 fast and fabulous family recipes, with tips on how to dress them up for company or dress them down for kids



### **The New Reform Judaism: Challenges and Reflections**

*(Dana Evan Kaplan)* This is the book that American Jews and particularly American Reform Jews have been waiting for: a clear and informed call for further reform in the Reform movement. In light of profound demographic, social, and technological developments, it has become increasingly clear that the Reform movement will need to make major changes to meet the needs of a quickly evolving American Jewish population. Younger Americans in particular differ from previous generations in how they relate to organized religion, often preferring to network through virtual groups or gather in informal settings of their own choosing.



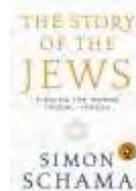
### **Nosh on This: Gluten-Free Baking From a Jewish-American Kitchen**

*(Lisa Stander-Horel)* Features over one hundred gluten-free recipes inspired by the authors Jewish-American heritage, including black & white cookies, hamantashen, and pumpkin corn bread streusel muffins.



### [The Story of the Jews: Finding the Words 1000 BC-1492 AD](#)

(*Simon Schama*) In this magnificently illustrated cultural history -- the tie-in to the PBS and BBC series "The Story of the Jews" -- Simon Schama details the story of the Jewish experience, tracing it across three millennia, from their beginnings as an ancient tribal people to the opening of the New World in 1492. The forthcoming *The Story of the Jews: When Words Fail: 1492-Present* completes the set.



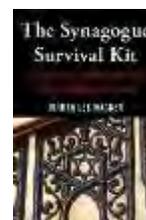
### [Superman is Jewish? How Comic Book Superheroes Came to Serve Truth, Justice, and the Jewish-American Way](#)

(*Harry Brod*) An exposé of the secret identities of famous superheroes explains how their dilemmas faced by iconic characters reflect the evolution of Judaism in American culture and the Jewish identities of famous comic book writers.



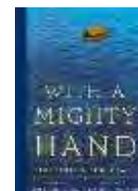
### [Synagogue Survival Kit](#)

(*Jordan Lee Wagner*) In an effort to counter the confusion and isolation often experienced by a novice synagogue-goer, as well as by many who regularly attend synagogue, *The Synagogue Survival Kit: A Guide to Understanding Jewish Religious Services* offers introductions and instructions for all aspects of the synagogue experience.



### [With a Mighty Hand: The Story of the Torah](#)

(*Amy Ehrlich; ill. by Daniel Nevins*) From Adam and Eve to the first patriarch, Abraham, to Moses, who led his people to the Promised Land, the stories in the Torah have been studied and revered since it was first written down nearly 3,000 years ago. Now in this glorious volume, Amy Ehrlich crafts an authentic, lyrical adaptation that is presented as a continuous narrative, one that honors the complexities of the original text. Daniel Nevins's richly hued paintings bring the ancient wonders of the Torah to resonant life, making this truly a gift to savor, share, and treasure.



## **Juvenile and Young Adult Fiction**

The following selected fiction is to inform young people about Jewish history and culture through contemporary and historical fiction novels by award winning authors, recent best sellers, acclaimed novels, and titles that provide important insight to the history of the Jewish heritage and culture.

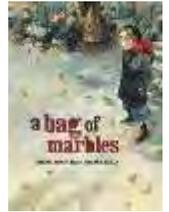
### [Anne Frank's Chestnut Tree](#)

(*Jane Kohuth*) Hidden away in their Secret Annex in Amsterdam during World War II, Anne Frank and her family could not breathe fresh air or see the blue sky for years. But through an attic window Anne could see the branches of a tall chestnut tree. This small glimpse of nature gave Anne hope and courage. It inspired her writing, which, in turn, inspired the whole world. Jane Kohuth explores Anne Frank's strong belief in the healing power of nature in this Step 3 leveled reader biography for newly independent readers ages 5-8.



### [A Bag of Marbles](#) (eBook)

(*Kris*) In 1941, ten-year-old Joseph Joffo and his older brother, Maurice, must hide their Jewish heritage and undertake a long and dangerous journey from Nazi-occupied Paris to reach their other brothers in the free zone.



### [I Survived the Nazi Invasion, 1944](#)

(*Lauren Tarshis*) A young Jewish boy escapes the ghetto and finds a group of resistance fighters in the forests of Poland, and he must determine if he has what it takes to survive the Nazis and fight back.



### [Prisoner B-3087](#)

(*Alan Gatz*) Based on the life of Jack Gruener, this book relates his story of survival from the Nazi occupation of Krakow, when he was eleven, through a succession of concentration camps, to the final liberation of Dachau.



### [What a Way to Start a New Year! : A Rosh Hashanah Story](#)

(*Jacqueline Jules*) Having moved just before Rosh Hashanah, Harry and Dina fear the New Year will be nothing but unpacking and leftover pizza until their parents take them to synagogue where they meet the Levine family.



## **Juvenile and Young Adult Nonfiction**

The following list of selected nonfiction is to educate young people about Jewish history and culture by award winning authors, recent best sellers, titles that are acclaimed, or titles that provide important insight to the history of the Jewish heritage and culture.

### [Anne Frank](#)

(*Zapruder Alexandra*) Traces the life of a Jewish girl who chronicled her day-to-day life in a diary as she hid in an attic in Nazi-occupied Holland for two years.



### [The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible... on Schindler's List](#)

(*Leon Leyson*) In the #1 New York Times bestseller, Leon Leyson (born Leib Lezjon) was only ten years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and his family was forced to relocate to the Krakow ghetto. The darkest of times can unleash the worst in human nature--and also the best. Leon Leyson lived through those times. Forced from home to ghetto to concentration camps, separated from his family, he experienced things that no child should ever experience. But there was one thing that could never be torn away: his will to survive. And one man--one Nazi--showed him that hope can come in the most unexpected way.



### [Jewish Holidays Cookbook: Festive Meals for Celebrating the Year](#)

(Jill Colella Bloomfield) Discusses eleven Jewish holidays and offers recipes for the ancient and modern foods traditionally served, from challah bread to potato latkes, with suggestions for planning kosher meals.



### [The JGuy's Guide: The GPS for Jewish Teen Guys](#)

(Joseph B Meszler) What does it mean to be a young Jewish man? Who am I? How do I feel about myself? Do I seem cool? Do I fit in? These overarching teen boys' concerns are addressed head on through the voices of contemporary Jewish teens, men, and biblical and historical stories. The *JGuy's Guide* helps young teens see how Judaism can help them navigate the often choppy waters of adolescence while it strengthens Jewish identity and pride.



### [What Makes Someone a Jew?](#)

(Lauren Seidman) Rhyming text describes Jewish customs and religious tenets, explaining that it is not the way a person looks that makes them Jewish, but the way that they act.



## DVD

The following selected films are to provide insight to the history of Jewish heritage and culture through fictional accounts or documentaries. (Unless otherwise noted, DVDs are for mature audiences)

### [Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy](#)

Examining the unique role of Jewish composers and lyricists in the creation of the modern American musical, this entertaining documentary mingles cultural history with illuminating perspectives on the origins and meanings of some of Broadway's most beloved songs, stories and shows.



### [The Flat](#)

Filmmaker Arnon Goldfinger travels to Tel Aviv to clean out the apartment of his recently-deceased German-born Jewish grandmother. Goldfinger begins an unsettling journey into his family's history ... and discovers that knowing the truth can be a terrible burden. ... *The Flat* is a real-life suspense story about how the past can return to haunt the present.



### [Mama Doni's Jewish Holiday Party](#) (Children)

*Mama Doni's Jewish Holiday Party* is her debut DVD with a brand new bonus soulful, acoustic CD soundtrack. From a bluegrass "Chanukah Oh Chanukah" medley sing-along to a fun instructional "Making Challah with Mama Doni" video throw-down in the kitchen, this DVD celebrates Chanukah, Passover and Shabbat like never before.

### [The Story of the Jews](#) (PG)

Historian Simon Schama's BBC documentary is an objective yet impassioned monumental five-part look at 3,000 years of Jewish history and the impact the Jews have made on the world. The companion books of the same title compliment the critically-acclaimed series.



## **Databases**

The following databases are academic research tools that provide information about people and historical events in Jewish history. Many include video, primary documents and photographs. For access from home or elsewhere, use your 13-digit library card number as your password.

### [Biography in Context](#)

Includes full-text articles from hundreds of periodicals. Search for people based on one or more personal facts such as birth and death year, nationality, ethnicity, occupation or gender, or combine criteria to create a highly-targeted custom search.

### [Encyclopedia of World Biography](#)

Approximately 7,000 biographies on notables from every part of the world and from all time periods. Includes thousands of photos, a consolidated index, and more.

### [Encyclopedia Virginia](#)

A chronicle of the state's history, politics, and geography through the perspectives of all the ethnically, culturally, and linguistically diverse peoples who have lived there.

### [General Reference Center Gold](#)

Use General Reference Center Gold to find articles from newspapers, reference books, and periodicals, many with full-text and images. Find the latest current events, popular culture, business and industry coverage, the arts and sciences, sports, hobbies, and more.

### [Infotrac Religion & Philosophy Collection](#)

Over 640,000 articles on Religion and Philosophy.

### [World Book Online Reference Center](#)

This database has state-of-the-art multimedia, maps, editor-reviewed Web sites, and more.

## **Websites**

The following websites will provide information for those who are interested in the research of Jewish history and culture in America and throughout the world, providing insight from recent issues to ancient history.

**Center for Jewish History:** [www.cjh.org/](http://www.cjh.org/)

The Center for Jewish History is the home of five preeminent Jewish institutions dedicated to history, culture, and art. It unites under one roof of collections that bring together centuries of Jewish life.

**The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life:** [www.msje.org/](http://www.msje.org/)

A site providing news, history, education, culture and art, media and a bookstore promoting Southern Jewish heritage and the significant contributions Southern Jews have made on their communities.

**Jewish American Heritage Month:** [www.jewishheritagemonth.gov/](http://www.jewishheritagemonth.gov/)

A multi-media web portal of photographs, essays, recordings, and documents about Jewish Americans' contributions to history in provided cooperatively by the Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

**Jewish American History Foundation:** [www.jewish-history.com/](http://www.jewish-history.com/)

The Jewish-American History Documentation Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides full digital text of primary historical documents previously unavailable to the general public except in historical society archives or on reels of microfilm.

**Jewish American Heritage Month Coalition:** [www.jewishamericanheritagemonth.us/](http://www.jewishamericanheritagemonth.us/)

A national clearinghouse of commemorative events, educational resources, and story-gathering website.

**The Moses Myers House:** [www.chrysler.org/about-the-museum/historic-houses](http://www.chrysler.org/about-the-museum/historic-houses)

The stately Moses Myers House and its peerless collection create an exceptionally accurate picture of the late Federal period and the life of this prosperous Jewish family. Moses Myers, an early American entrepreneur and leading citizen, built the house in 1797 to accommodate his growing family and prominence. This Chrysler Museum historical house is open to visitors. Admission is free, and the museum is open Wednesday – Sunday for scheduled guided tours.

**Norfolk, Virginia History:** [www.norfolkhistory.com/jewishhistory.htm](http://www.norfolkhistory.com/jewishhistory.htm)

A website of Hampton Roads history with an emphasis on local Jewish history.

